

Country []

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division

United Nations Office at Vienna

Austria

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STUDY

ON

FIREARM REGULATION

Guidelines and Questionnaire

**UPON COMPLETION, RETURN by 1 NOVEMBER 1996 at the
latest**

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I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 30 May - 9 June, 1996) recommended to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for its adoption, a resolution on information gathering and analysis of firearms regulations, in conjunction with a work plan for its implementation (doc. E/1995/30, chapter II, paras. 19-20).

In its resolution 1995/27 the ECOSOC provided the legislative mandate for the above mentioned project. The provisional work plan was endorsed in para. 9 of the same resolution. The resolution recommended that there be a regular exchange of information among Member States and that a special study be conducted on these topics:

- criminal cases, accidents and suicides in which firearms are involved, including the number of such cases and the number of victims involved, and the status of firearms regulation by the law enforcement authorities;
- the situation with regard to transnational illicit trafficking in firearms;
- national legislation and regulations relevant to firearms regulations;
- relevant initiatives for firearms regulation at the regional and interregional levels.

It was also recommended that information gathered by means of a special study would be used by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for its consideration of measures to regulate firearms.

In its resolution 1996/.. the ECOSOC endorsed these questionnaire and guidelines, and requested the Secretary-General to collect information and consult with Member States, as appropriate, on the basis of the questionnaire and guidelines and analyze the information obtained in order to contribute to the preparation of additional survey and country reports on firearms regulation issues.

Responding offices are encouraged to coordinate the gathering of required information. After receiving survey responses, the Secretary-General will prepare a summary report and submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It is planned that the Secretariat would organize four regional workshops on firearms regulation involving the participation of those officials who are knowledgeable in the fields of customs, law enforcement, criminal justice and other relevant sectors. It is also planned that on the basis of the discussions in those workshops, an ad hoc expert group meeting would be held in order to recommend further action (E/1996/30, chapter III, paras. 75-76). The results of this study will be publicly available.

Requests for clarification should be addressed to the Director of the relevant regional institute of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network.

European Institute for Crime
Prevention and Control affiliated with the
United Nations (HEUNI)
P.O. Box 34
00931 Helsinki, Finland
Fax: (3580) 1825 7890
Tel: (3580) 1825 7881
e-mail: heuni@joutsen.pp.fi

Latin American Institute for the Prevention
of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders
(ILANUD)
P.O. Box 10071
1000 San Jose, Costa Rica
Fax: (506) 233 7175 or (506) 253 4912
Tel: (506) 257 5826 or (506) 233 7471
e-mail: ilanudcd@sol.racsa.co.cr

United Nations African Institute for the
Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of
Offenders (UNAFRI)
P.O. Box 105 90
Kampala, Uganda
Fax: (25641) 24 48 01
Tel: (25641) 28 52 36

United Nations Asia and Far East Institute
for
the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment
of
Offenders (UNAFEI)
1-26 Harumicho
Fuchu, Tokyo, Japan 183
Fax: (81) 423 33 7024
Tel: (81) 423 33 7021
e-mail: LDJ00272@niftyserve.or.jp

For further information concerning this study, please contact:

Mr. James Hayes
Coordinator
United Nations International Study
on Firearm Regulation
Canadian Firearms Centre
Department of Justice, Canada
239 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8, CANADA
Tel.: 1-613-957-9628
Fax: 1-613-941-1991
E-mail: james.hayes@justice.x400.gc.ca

Mr. Eduardo Vetere
Officer-in-Charge
Crime Prevention and
Criminal Justice Division
United Nations Office at Vienna
Vienna International Centre
P.O. Box 500 A-1400 Vienna
AUSTRIA
Tel.: 43-1-21345-4269 / 4278
Fax: 43-1-21345-5898
E-mail: evetere@cpj.un.or.at

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following points are intended to guide the respondents. Please review these guidelines carefully.

- The survey is divided into eight topic areas.
- Responses to the narrative portions of the survey can be provided in one of three ways:
 - a) type-written directly on the survey form;
 - b) type-written on separate paper clearly identifying the subject and question number being responded to;
 - c) on diskette in machine readable format utilizing a standard word processing package such as Microsoft Word or Word Perfect - please identify by means of a covering note what word processing software and version has been used.
- It is recognized that, in some countries, responsibility for firearm regulation is distributed among many agencies and levels of government. **In responding to questions where regulatory authority is not centralized or where regulations vary among regions of your country, the responses should seek to describe the general practice and the range of variation, that exists among regions.**
- Please respond in same fashion to all questions:
 - a) if information is not available because it does not exist, please indicate NOT AVAILABLE;
 - b) if information is potentially available but cannot be obtained with reasonable effort, please indicate NOT REASONABLY AVAILABLE;
 - c) if information is not publicly available for security or other reasons please indicate NOT PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.
- Please feel free to offer other comments concerning the availability of information. For example, respondents may wish to identify questions they are unable to answer now but would be in the future. You are also welcome to provide advice as to how the questions could be better asked in the future;
- Respondents should clarify their answers with definitional and source references;
- Respondents may wish to add in a separate sheet of paper, in each topic, any relevant

additional information that is not included in the Questionnaire. Answers should be provided in a general way and include an explanation of the exceptions;

- All questions should be answered by the respondents. It could be appreciated if answers be narrative and **not merely limited themselves to making reference to legislation or other documents**. The answers provided by the respondents should reflect the opinions of the Government.

III. SCOPE OF THE FIREARMS REGULATIONS SURVEY

This survey focuses on firearm regulation as it applies to *civilians*. Excluded from the scope are all forms of ownership, possession and use of firearms which result from the performance of State functions (State sanctioned law enforcement officials). These functions would include the military, State security, the administration of justice, policing, border protection, control of trade, and environmental protection. Also excluded from the scope of the survey are activities for which the ownership, possession or use of firearms is separately regulated by State authority, such as licensed commercial or private security services.

Principal responding officer

Name:

Position/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone*:

Fax*:

E-mail:

*(Please include country code and city code)

PART 1 - FIREARM REGULATION - GENERAL

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 30 May - 9 June, 1996) recommended to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for its adoption, a resolution on information gathering and analysis of firearms regulations, in conjunction with a work plan for its implementation (doc. E/1995/30, chapter II, paras. 19-20).

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Respondents are encouraged to coordinate the gathering of required information. On receiving survey responses, the Secretary-General will prepare a summary report and submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It is planned that the Secretariat would organize four regional workshops on firearms regulation involving the participation of those officials who are knowledgeable in the fields of customs, law enforcement, criminal justice and other relevant sectors. It is also planned that on the basis of the discussions in those workshops, an ad hoc expert group meeting would be held in order to recommend further action (E/1996/30, chapter III, paras. 75-76). The results of this study will be publicly available.

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IV. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this survey, please find the following explanation of terms:

FIREARM: Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon.

HANDGUN: Any firearm which has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand; and any combination of parts from which a handgun can be assembled.

PISTOL: A weapon originally designed, made, and intended to fire a projectile (bullet) from one or more barrels when held in one hand, and having (a) a chamber(s) as an integral part(s) of, or permanently aligned with, the bore(s); and (b) a short stock designed to be gripped by one hand and at an angle to and extending below the line of the bore(s).

REVOLVER: A projectile weapon, of the pistol type, having a breech loading chambered cylinder so arranged that the cocking of the hammer or movement of the trigger rotates it and brings the next cartridge in line with the barrel for firing.

LONG GUN: Any firearm designed or redesigned to be fired from the shoulder, not to include a machine gun.

RIFLE: A weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder, and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed metallic cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger.

SHOTGUN: A weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from

the shoulder, and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed shotgun shell to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shots or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.

V. Principal responding officer

Name:

Position/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone*:

Fax*:

E-mail:

*(Please include country code and city code)

1. Please identify if your country (or regions of your country) have the following:

a) Regulations which **prohibit the ownership of long guns** by civilians.

Yes (All long guns) []

Yes (Certain types of long guns only) []

No (No prohibitions) []

b) Regulations which **prohibit the ownership of handguns** by civilians.

Yes (All hand guns) []

Yes (Certain types of hand guns only) []

No (No prohibitions) []

2. Please identify if your country (or regions of your country, please specify which) has the following:

a) Regulations which **restrict the ownership of long guns** by civilians.

country [] specific regions [] or both []

Yes (All long guns) []

Yes (Certain types of long guns only) []

No (No prohibitions) []

b) Regulations which **restrict the ownership of handguns** by civilians.

country [] specific regions [] or both []

Yes (All hand guns) []

Yes (Certain types of hand guns only) []

No (No prohibitions) []

3. Please identify if your country (or regions of your country) have the following:

a) Regulations which **prohibit the importing** of firearms, or certain types of firearms, from foreign countries for civilian use.

country [] specific regions [] or both []

All Long Guns Yes [] No []

Some Long Guns Yes [] No []

All Handguns Yes [] No []

Some Handguns Yes [] No []

b) Regulations which **prohibit the exporting** of firearms, or certain types of firearms, to foreign countries for civilian use.

country [] specific regions [] or both []

All Long Guns Yes [] No []

Some Long Guns Yes [] No []

All Handguns Yes [] No []

Some Handguns Yes [] No []

c) Regulations which **restrict the movement** of firearms or certain types of firearms by

civilians from one part of your country to another.

All Long Guns Yes [] No []

Some Long Guns Yes [] No []

All Handguns Yes [] No []

Some Handguns Yes [] No []

4. Please identify if your country (or regions of your country) have the following:

a) Regulations which **restrict the importing** of firearms, or certain types of firearms, from foreign countries for civilian use.

country [] specific regions [] or both []

All Long Guns Yes [] No []

Some Long Guns Yes [] No []

All Handguns Yes [] No []

Some Handguns Yes [] No []

b) Regulations which **restrict the exporting** of firearms, or certain types of firearms, to foreign countries for civilian use.

country [] specific regions [] or both []

All Long Guns Yes [] No []

Some Long Guns Yes [] No []

All Handguns Yes [] No []

Some Handguns Yes [] No []

5. Please identify if your country (or regions of your country) have the following:

a) Regulations which prohibit or restrict the **manufacture or assembly of long guns, long gun components, or long gun ammunition** for civilian markets.

country [] specific regions [] or both []

Yes (total prohibition) [] Yes (restriction) [] No []

- b) Regulations which prohibit or restrict the **manufacture or assembly of handguns, handgun components, or handgun ammunition** for civilian markets.

country [] specific regions [] or both []

Yes (total prohibition) [] Yes (restriction) [] No []

6. Please briefly describe how **legislative authority** with respect to the regulation of firearms is distributed in your country among national, regional and local governing bodies, as it pertains to each of the following:

Guideline: Please define briefly the distribution of regulatory powers. Focus on the extent to which powers are centralized within national governing bodies or distributed among regional or local governing bodies and, where appropriate, make reference to the primary governing legislation.

- a) The **ownership and possession** of firearms by civilians.
- b) The **domestic sale** of firearms and firearm supplies to civilians.
- c) **Import and export** trade in firearms.
- d) The **manufacturing** of firearms for domestic or export markets.

7. Is your country a party to any **bi-lateral agreement** with another country intended to **regulate or prevent** trade in firearms, firearm components or ammunition?

Yes No (if No, go to Question 9)

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to identify those countries that have constructed specific trade or law enforcement agreements other countries on a bi-lateral basis.

8. Please briefly describe any such bi-lateral agreement in terms of the name of the agreement, the country with which the agreement is in effect, the year it was put into effect, and the general objectives the agreement was intended to attain.

9. Is your country a party to any **regional or inter-regional agreement** intended to **regulate international trade** in firearms, firearm components or ammunition?

Yes No (if No, go to Question 11)

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to identify those countries that have constructed specific trade or law enforcement agreements with other countries on a regional or inter-regional basis.

10. Please briefly describe any such regional or inter-regional agreement in terms of the name of the agreement, the countries with which the agreement is in effect, the year it was put into effect, and the general objectives the agreement was intended to attain.

11. Is your country a party to any **bi-lateral agreement** intended to **regulate the movement** by civilians of firearms from one country to another?

Yes No (if No, go to Question 13)

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to identify those countries that have constructed bi-lateral agreements concerning the movement by civilians of firearms from one country to another.

12. Please briefly describe any such bi-lateral agreement in terms of the name of the agreement, the country with which the agreement is in effect, the year it was put into effect, and the general objectives the agreement was intended to attain.

13. Is your country a party to any **regional or inter-regional agreement** intended to prescribe the circumstances of the legal movement by civilians of firearms from one country to another?

Yes No (if No, go to Question 15)

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to identify those countries that are party to regional or inter-regional agreements which prescribe the circumstances of the legal movement by civilians of firearms from one country to another.

14. Please briefly describe any such regional or inter-regional agreement in terms of the name of the agreement, the countries with which the agreement is in effect, the year it was put into effect, and the general objectives the agreement was intended to attain.

15. Is your country a party to any **bi-lateral agreement** intended to enable the sharing of information concerning the registration of firearm owners or firearms for the purpose of law enforcement?

Yes No (if No, go to Question 17)

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to identify those countries that have entered into bi-lateral agreements concerning the sharing of administrative records for law enforcement purposes.

16. Please briefly describe any such bi-lateral agreement in terms of the name of the agreement, the country with which the agreement is in effect, the year it was put into effect, and the general objectives the agreement was intended to attain.

PART 2 - FIREARM REGULATION - OWNERSHIP

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 30 May - 9 June, 1996) recommended to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for its adoption, a resolution on information gathering and analysis of firearms regulations, in conjunction with a work plan for its implementation (doc. E/1995/30, chapter II, paras. 19-20).

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- Respondents should clarify their responses with definitional and source references;
- Respondents may add in a separate sheet of paper, in each topic, any relevant additional information that is not included in the Questionnaire. Answers should be provided in a general way and include an explanation of the exceptions;

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HANDGUN: Any firearm which has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand; and any combination of parts from which a handgun can be assembled.

V. Principal responding officer

Name:

Position/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone*:

Fax*:

E-mail:

*(Please include country code and city code)

17. Are any civilians in your country legally permitted to own a handgun for any of the following purposes:

Hunting of game for sport or food	Yes	[]	No	[]
Target shooting	Yes	[]	No	[]

Collection	Yes	[]	No	[]
Protection of person or property	Yes	[]	No	[]
Private security	Yes	[]	No	[]

Guideline: If under any circumstance, in any part of your country, a private citizen can own a handgun for any of the listed purposes, the answer to this question should be Yes.

18. To become a **firearm owner** in your country, are there **requirements that a license or permit**, or some other form of certification such as proof of handling or safety training be obtained?

For all types of firearms: Yes [] No []

For certain types of firearms only: Yes [] No []

(if No to both, go to Question 21)

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to identify those countries which have administrative requirements associated with the ownership of firearms by civilians.

19. Please describe these requirements in terms of the **step by step process** an individual must go through to legally obtain a firearm.

Guideline: Please focus your answer on prerequisites to firearm ownership. For example, to what body is an application presented, what are the requirements for self-identification, fees, references, training certification, waiting periods? Also, specify where procedures vary depending on the type of firearm a person wishes to obtain. Where requirements vary by region, please respond in terms of a description of general practice and the range of variation in practice among regions.

20. Please define any legal **prohibitions or restrictions on firearm ownership** that currently exist in your country based on the following criteria.

a) Citizenship

No existing prohibitions or restrictions []

Prohibitions:

Restrictions:

*Guideline: Describe any legal prohibitions or restrictions which exist in your country or parts of your country on the basis of **citizenship, residency, or ethnicity**.*

b) Age

No existing prohibitions or restrictions []

Prohibitions:

Restrictions:

*Guideline: Describe any legal prohibitions or restrictions which exist in your country or parts of your country regarding the **age** at which firearms can be owned or used.*

c) Criminal Record

No existing prohibitions or restrictions []

Prohibitions:

Restrictions:

*Guideline: Describe any legal prohibitions or restrictions which exist in your country or parts of your country against the ownership of firearms by persons with **criminal records**. We are interested here in prohibitions or restrictions which exist following conviction for certain types of criminal offence.*

d) Mental illness

No existing prohibitions or restrictions []

Prohibitions:

Restrictions:

*Guideline: Describe any prohibitions or restrictions which exist in your country or parts of your country against persons owning a firearm because of **mental illness**. Also please*

describe what procedures are used to determine prohibitions or restrictions for reasons of mental illness.

e) Domestic violence

No existing prohibitions or restrictions []

Prohibitions:

Restrictions:

*Guideline: Describe any prohibitions or restrictions which exist in your country or parts of your country against persons owning a firearm because of **domestic violence**. Also please describe what procedures are used to determine prohibitions or restrictions for reasons of domestic violence.*

f) Other prohibitions or restrictions

No existing prohibitions or restrictions []

Prohibitions:

Restrictions:

Guideline: Describe any other prohibitions or restrictions which exist in your country or parts of your country against persons owning a firearm. Also please describe what procedures are used to determine prohibitions or restrictions for those reasons.

21. Are administrative records maintained in your country which permit **identification** of civilian **firearms owners**?

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to establish whether your country maintains administrative records or a registry of some form which serves to identify civilian firearm owners. If administrative records are maintained at any level (national, regional, or local), for all firearm owners or any particular category of firearm owner, the answer to this question should be Yes.

Yes [] No [] (If No, go to Question 23)

22. Please describe your administrative system(s) for the identification or registration of the **owners** of firearm, including procedures used to update or change records.

Guideline: Please generally describe this system in terms of which authorities are

responsible for maintaining records, what information is kept, procedures for renewal or update, and who has access to this information for what purposes.

23. If any licence system exists in your country, how many **individuals are licensed** to own firearms?

No licence system []

Total []

24. Please provide what you consider to be the most accurate estimate of the **number** of civilian **firearm owners** in your country.

Total []

Guideline: A count of persons not firearms is being sought. Please provide a reference of source and year for this estimate as well as any Definitional notes that might assist in understanding how this estimate is determined.

Reference of source:

25. Please provide what you consider to be the most accurate estimate of the percentage of households in your country in which at least one firearm is kept.

Percentage [%]

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to quantify the prevalence of firearms within domestic settings in your country. Please provide a reference of source and year for this estimate as well as any definitional notes that might assist in understanding how this estimate was determined.

Reference of source:

PART 3 - FIREARM REGULATION - POSSESSION AND USE

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

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Respondents are encouraged to coordinate the gathering of required information. On receiving survey responses, the Secretary-General will prepare a summary report and submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It is planned that the Secretariat would organize four regional workshops on firearms regulation involving the participation of those officials who are knowledgeable in the fields of customs, law enforcement, criminal justice and other relevant sectors. It is also planned that on the basis of the discussions in those workshops, an ad hoc expert group meeting would be held in order to recommend further action (E/1996/30, chapter III, paras. 75-76). The results of this study will be publicly available.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following points are intended to guide the respondents. Please review these guidelines carefully.

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 - c) on diskette in machine readable format utilizing a standard word processing package such as Microsoft Word or Word Perfect - please identify by means of a covering note what word processing software and version has been used.
- It is recognized that, in some countries, responsibility for firearm regulation is distributed among many agencies and levels of government. **In responding to questions where regulatory authority is not centralized or where regulations vary among regions of your country, the responses should seek to describe the general practice and the range of variation, that exists among regions.**
- Please respond in same fashion to all questions:
 - a) if information is not available because it does not exist, please indicate NOT AVAILABLE;
 - b) if information is potentially available but cannot be obtained with reasonable effort, please indicate NOT REASONABLY AVAILABLE;
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- Please feel free to offer other comments concerning the availability of information. For example, respondents may wish to identify questions they are unable to answer now but would be in the future. You are also welcome to provide advice as to how the questions could be better asked in the future;
- Respondents should clarify their responses with definitional and source references;
- Respondents may add in a separate sheet of paper, in each topic, any relevant additional information that is not included in the Questionnaire. Answers should be provided in a general way and include an explanation of the exceptions;
- All questions should be answered by the respondents. It could be appreciated if

answers be narrative and **not merely limited themselves to making reference to legislation or other documents**. The answers provided by the respondents should reflect the opinions of the Government.

III. SCOPE OF THE FIREARMS REGULATIONS SURVEY

This survey focuses on firearm regulation as it applies to *civilians*. Excluded from the scope are all forms of ownership, possession and use of firearms which result from the performance of State functions (State sanctioned law enforcement officials). These functions would include the military, State security, the administration of justice, policing, border protection, control of trade, and environmental protection. Also excluded from the scope of the survey are activities for which the ownership, possession or use of firearms is separately regulated by State authority, such as licensed commercial or private security services.

IV. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this survey, please find the following explanation of term(s):

FIREARM: Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon.

V. Principal responding officer

Name:

Position/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone*:

Fax*:

E-mail:

*(Please include country code and city code)

26. Please identify which of the following usages of firearms by civilians are permitted in your country.

Hunting of game for sport or food	Yes	[]	No	[]
Target shooting	Yes	[]	No	[]
Collection	Yes	[]	No	[]
Protection of person or property	Yes	[]	No	[]
Private security	Yes	[]	No	[]

27. Are there legally permitted circumstances in your country or parts of your country whereby a firearm owner can **allow other persons to possess or use** their firearm?

Yes [] No [] **(If No, go to Question 29)**

Guideline: For example, can a firearm be lent to someone else for purposes of hunting? Can a firearm be legally fired by someone other than its owner?

28. Please describe the **circumstances** under which persons other than the owner of a firearm can legally use or possess the firearm.

29. Are there any regulations in your country or parts of your country as to where and how legally owned firearms, or certain types of firearms, must be **stored when not in use**?

Yes [] No [] **(if No, go to Question 31)**

Guideline. The purpose of this question is to identify those countries that have any form of regulation regarding the placement in storage of firearms which are not in use. This might range from regulations regarding domestic locked storage to compulsory storage in central facilities.

30. Please describe these **storage regulations** including any variations in regulations that exist among types of firearms.

Guideline. The focus of this question is on regulatory measures your country has taken to ensure that legally owned firearms, while not in use, do not come into the hands of persons who are not legally permitted to possess them. For example, regulations intended to prevent theft or the accidental use by children.

31. Do regulations exist in your country or parts of your country concerning the circumstances under which firearms must be **unloaded when not in use**, or regarding the **storage of ammunition**?

Yes No (if No, go to Question 33)

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to identify those countries that have any form of regulation regarding the circumstances under which a firearm may or may not be loaded with ammunition or where ammunition must be stored.

32. Please describe these regulations regarding the **unloading of ammunition or the storage of ammunition**.

Guideline: The focus of this question is on regulatory measures your country has taken to ensure that ammunition is removed or stored separately from firearms that are not in use.

33. Do regulations exist in your country or parts of your country regarding the **transport or movement of legally owned firearms** from one place to another within your country?

Yes No (if No, go to Question 35)

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to identify those countries that have regulations regarding the transport or movement of firearms from one place to another. For example, if owners are required to notify authorities of the movement of a firearm from a normal storage location to another location, or if there are restrictions on the use of public or commercial delivery systems, or if a firearm must be prepared, stored or carried in certain ways while in transit.

34. Please describe these **internal transport or movement regulations** including any variations that exist among types of firearms.

Guideline: The focus of this question is on regulations intended to reduce the chance that legally owned firearms, while in transit within your country, do not come into the hands of persons who are not legally permitted to possess them. For example, regulations intended to prevent theft or accidents.

35. Are there any regulations in your country or parts of your country regarding the circumstances that permit a firearm to be **legally carried by its owner for the purposes of self-protection**?

Yes No (if No, go to Question 37)

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to identify those countries that have any form of regulation regarding carrying of a permit, wearing of clothing, use of carrying cases, concealment, or restriction of movement while in possession of a firearm.

36. Please describe these regulations concerning the **carrying of firearms**, including any variations in regulations that exist among regions of your country, or among types of firearms.

37. Are administrative records maintained in your country which permit the **identification of firearms owned** by civilians?

Guideline: The purpose of this question is to establish whether your country maintains administrative records or a registry of some form which serves to identify firearms owned by civilians. If administrative records are maintained at any level (national, regional, or local), for all firearms or any particular category of firearm, the answer to this question should be Yes.

Yes [] No [] **(If No, go to Question 39)**

38. Please describe your administrative system(s) for **maintaining records regarding firearms** owned by civilians.

Guideline: Please describe the degree to which these systems are administered centrally, which authorities are responsible for maintaining records, what information is kept, who has access to this information and for what purposes.

39. Please provide what you consider to be the most accurate estimate of the number of firearms owned by civilians in your country.

Total []

Handguns []

Rifles []

Shotguns []

Guideline: A count of firearms not persons is being sought. Please provide a reference of source and year for these estimates as well as any definitional notes that might assist in understanding how these estimates were determined.

Reference of source:

PART 4 - FIREARM MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 30 May - 9 June, 1996) recommended to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for its adoption, a resolution on information gathering and analysis of firearms regulations, in conjunction with a work plan for its implementation (doc. E/1995/30, chapter II, paras. 19-20).

In its resolution 1995/27 the ECOSOC provided the legislative mandate for the above mentioned project. The provisional work plan was endorsed in para. 9 of the same resolution. The resolution recommended that there be a regular exchange of information among Member States and that a special study be conducted on these topics:

- criminal cases, accidents and suicides in which firearms are involved, including the number of such cases and the number of victims involved, and the status of firearms regulation by the law enforcement authorities;
- the situation with regard to transnational illicit trafficking in firearms;
- national legislation and regulations relevant to firearms regulations;
- relevant initiatives for firearms regulation at the regional and interregional levels.

It was also recommended that information gathered by means of a special study would be used by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for its consideration of measures to regulate firearms.

In its resolution 1996/.. the ECOSOC endorsed these questionnaire and guidelines, and requested the Secretary-General to collect information and consult with Member States, as appropriate, on the basis of these questionnaire and guidelines and analyze the information obtained in order to contribute to the preparation of additional survey and country reports on firearms regulation issues.

Respondents are encouraged to coordinate the gathering of required information. On receiving survey responses, the Secretary-General will prepare a summary report and submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It is planned that the Secretariat would organize four regional workshops on firearms regulation involving the participation of those officials who are knowledgeable in the fields of customs, law enforcement, criminal justice and other relevant sectors. It is also planned that on the basis of the discussions in those workshops, an ad hoc expert group meeting would be held in order to recommend further action (E/1996/30, chapter III, paras. 75-76). The results of this study will be publicly available.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following points are intended to guide the respondents. Please review these guidelines carefully.

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- All questions should be answered by the respondents. It could be appreciated if

answers be narrative and **not merely limited themselves to making reference to legislation or other documents**. The answers provided by the respondents should reflect the opinions of the Government.

III. SCOPE OF THE FIREARMS REGULATIONS SURVEY

This survey focuses on firearm regulation as it applies to *civilians*. Excluded from the scope are all forms of ownership, possession and use of firearms which result from the performance of State functions (State sanctioned law enforcement officials). These functions would include the military, State security, the administration of justice, policing, border protection, control of trade, and environmental protection. Also excluded from the scope of the survey are activities for which the ownership, possession or use of firearms is separately regulated by State authority, such as licensed commercial or private security services.

IV. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this survey, please find the following explanation of term(s):

FIREARM: Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon.

V. Principal responding officer

Name:

Position/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone*:

Fax*:

E-mail:

*(Please include country code and city code)

40. Do you have legal businesses in your country which:

a) manufacture or **assemble firearms** for sale to **domestic** civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

b) manufacture or **assemble firearms** for sale to **foreign** civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

c) manufacture firearm **component parts** for sale to **domestic** civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

d) manufacture firearm **component parts** for sale to **foreign** civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

e) manufacture **ammunition or components** for sale to **domestic** civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

f) manufacture **ammunition or components** for sale to **foreign** civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

41. Do you have legal businesses in your country which:

a) **export firearms** to sell to your foreign civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

b) **export component parts** for purposes of manufacturing or assembly of firearms
for civilian use?

Yes [] No []

c) **export ammunition or components** for sale to foreign civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

42. Do you have legal businesses in your country which:

a) **import firearms** to sell to your domestic civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

b) **import component parts** for purposes of manufacturing or assembly of firearms
for civilian use?

Yes [] No []

c) **import ammunition or components** for sale to domestic civilian markets?

Yes [] No []

PART 5 - FIREARM SMUGGLING AND OTHER ILLEGAL DEALINGS

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 30 May - 9 June, 1996) recommended to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for its adoption, a resolution on information gathering and analysis of firearms regulations, in conjunction with a work plan for its implementation (doc. E/1995/30, chapter II, paras. 19-20).

In its resolution 1995/27 the ECOSOC provided the legislative mandate for the above mentioned project. The provisional work plan was endorsed in para. 9 of the same resolution. The resolution recommended that there be a regular exchange of information among Member States and that a special study be conducted on these topics:

- criminal cases, accidents and suicides in which firearms are involved, including the number of such cases and the number of victims involved, and the status of firearms regulation by the law enforcement authorities;
- the situation with regard to transnational illicit trafficking in firearms;
- national legislation and regulations relevant to firearms regulations;
- relevant initiatives for firearms regulation at the regional and interregional levels.

It was also recommended that information gathered by means of a special study would be used by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for its consideration of measures to regulate firearms.

In its resolution 1996/.. the ECOSOC endorsed these questionnaire and guidelines, and requested the Secretary-General to collect information and consult with Member States, as appropriate, on the basis of these questionnaire and guidelines and analyze the information obtained in order to contribute to the preparation of additional survey and country reports on firearms regulation issues.

Respondents are encouraged to coordinate the gathering of required information. On receiving survey responses, the Secretary-General will prepare a summary report and submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It is planned that the Secretariat would organize four regional workshops on firearms regulation involving the participation of those officials who are knowledgeable in the fields of customs, law enforcement, criminal justice and other relevant sectors. It is also planned that on the basis of the discussions in those workshops, an ad hoc expert group meeting would be held in order to recommend further action (E/1996/30, chapter III, paras. 75-76). The results of this study will be publicly available.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

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- It is recognized that, in some countries, responsibility for firearm regulation is distributed among many agencies and levels of government. **In responding to questions where regulatory authority is not centralized or where regulations vary among regions of your country, the responses should seek to describe the general practice and the range of variation, that exists among regions.**
- Please respond in same fashion to all questions:
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answers be narrative and **not merely limited themselves to making reference to legislation or other documents**. The answers provided by the respondents should reflect the opinions of the Government.

III. SCOPE OF THE FIREARMS REGULATIONS SURVEY

This survey focuses on firearm regulation as it applies to *civilians*. Excluded from the scope are all forms of ownership, possession and use of firearms which result from the performance of State functions (State sanctioned law enforcement officials). These functions would include the military, State security, the administration of justice, policing, border protection, control of trade, and environmental protection. Also excluded from the scope of the survey are activities for which the ownership, possession or use of firearms is separately regulated by State authority, such as licensed commercial or private security services.

IV. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this survey, please find the following explanation of term(s):

FIREARM: Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon.

TRACING: The systematic tracking of firearms and explosives from manufacturer to purchaser (and/or possessor) for the purpose of aiding law enforcement officials in identifying suspects involved in criminal violations, establishing stolen status, and proving ownership.

THEFT: The removal of property without the property owner's consent.

ROBBERY: The theft of property from a person, overcoming resistance by force or threat of force.

V. Principal responding officer

Name:

Position/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone*:

Fax*:

E-mail:

*(Please include country code and city code)

43. According to available evidence, how often are firearms, firearm components, or ammunition **brought into your country for the purpose of illegal sale or other illegal dealings?**

Firearms	Frequent[]	Some[]	Few[]	None[]
Firearms components	Frequent[]	Some[]	Few[]	None[]
]				
Ammunition	Frequent[]	Some[]	Few[]	None[]

Guideline: Such evidence would include discoveries at border crossings, domestic recoveries of illegal (prohibited) firearms that were originally manufactured in foreign countries, or domestic recoveries of "legal " firearms that were manufactured in other countries but for which no legitimate trade records exist.

44. Please provide examples of significant incidents of this type of illegal import practice. Include in each example a description of the types of firearms or firearm supplies, their manufacturing origin, their shipment country origin, the most common trans-shipment points (air, sea, land) and the apparent uses to which the firearms or components are being put.

Guideline: Please base your response on recent official recoveries.

45. According to available evidence, how often are firearms, firearm components, or ammunition being **exported from your country for the purpose of illegal sale or other illegal dealings?**

Firearms	Frequent[]	Some[]	Few[]	None[]
Firearms components	Frequent[]	Some[]	Few[]	None[]
]				
Ammunition	Frequent[]	Some[]	Few[]	None[]

Guideline: Such evidence would include recoveries at border crossings or domestic confiscations by officials in your country or other countries.

46. Please provide significant examples of this type of illegal export practice. Include in each example a description of the types of firearms or firearm components or ammunition, their manufacturing origin, their shipment country destination, the most common

trans-shipment points (air, sea, land) and the apparent uses to which the firearms or supplies are being put.

Guideline: Please base your response on recent recoveries by officials in your country or in target export countries.

- 47. Does evidence exist which indicates that there are activities within your country to illegally manufacture or assemble firearms, firearm components, or ammunition, **for the purpose of** sale or dealings to civilians in your country or other countries?

Firearms	Frequent[]	Some[]	Few[]	None[]
Firearms components	Frequent[]	Some[]	Few[]	None[]
]				
Ammunition	Frequent[]	Some[]	Few[]	None[]

Guideline: Such evidence would include discoveries by officials in your country or other countries of firearms or firearm supplies illegally manufactured in your country.

- 48. Please provide significant **examples of these illegal manufacturing activities** Include in each example a description of the types of firearms or firearm components or ammunition being manufactured, their market destination and the apparent uses to which the firearms or supplies are being put.

Guideline: Please base your response on recent recoveries by officials in your country or in target export countries.

- 49. Does evidence exist which indicates that there are activities within your country to illegally sell or distribute firearms, firearm components, or ammunition, for the purpose of sale or trade to civilians in your country?

Firearms	Yes []	No []	If yes, the quantity []
Firearms components	Yes []	No []	If yes, the quantity []

Ammunition Yes [] No [] If yes, the quantity []

Guideline: Such evidence would include discoveries by officials in your country or other countries of firearms or firearm supplies that had originally been legally obtained but were subsequently being illegally sold or distributed to domestic markets.

50. Please provide significant **examples of these illegal sales and distribution activities** Include in each example a description of the types of firearms, firearm components or ammunition being sold or distributed, their original source, their market destination and the apparent uses to which the firearms or supplies are being put.

Guideline: Please base your response on recent recoveries by officials in your country or in target export countries.

51. What evidence exists in your country which indicates that there are **thefts** of firearm components or ammunition for the purpose of reselling to civilians either in your country **or other countries?**

Evidence:

Guideline: Such evidence would include reports of firearm theft to police or recoveries by police of stolen firearms where the original and prime target of theft was apparently firearms or firearm supplies.

52. Please provide significant **examples of this type of theft** Include in each example a description of the types of firearms or firearm supplies being targeted for theft and robbery, their market destination and the apparent uses to which the firearms or supplies are intended.

*Guideline: Please base your response on recent experiences of police **or other security agencies.***

53. Please describe the information sources that are used by officials in your country to **determine the origins of a recovered firearm** Please identify the strengths and

weaknesses of the information sources you use.

Please focus on the information sources (regional, national or international) that would be used to determine whether a firearm had been illegally obtained, imported, manufactured, stolen, etc..

54. What kind of penalties do you have for smuggling and other illegal dealings of firearms, firearms components or ammunition in your country?

Penalties:

55. Are law enforcement officers in your country **trained in identification of firearms**, firearms components and ammunition?

Yes No

56. Do law enforcement officers in your country avail themselves of **firearms tracing technology** as an investigative tool?

Yes No

If yes, what percentage of guns are traced? (i.e., % of all guns recovered by police).

Percentage %

PART 6 - DEMOGRAPHIC, VITAL AND ACCIDENT STATISTICS

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

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V. Principal responding officer

Name:

Position/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone*:

Fax*:

E-mail:

*(Please include country code and city code)

57. If civilian ownership of firearms is permitted on the basis of a minimum age criterion, what is the total population that meets this criterion?

Population [] Minimum age [] years old]

Guideline: If, for example, the minimum legal age to own a firearm is 16 years, provide total population 16 years and above.

58. For the most recent five years, what is the **number of deaths** caused by a fatal wound inflicted by a firearm, including the number of suicides?

Deaths	Year	[]
		[]
		[]
		[]
		[]

Guideline: We are looking for an aggregate statistic which makes no distinction among the circumstances which may have led to the firearm wound.

59. For the five years, what is the **number of deaths caused by suicide**?

Deaths	Year	[]
		[]
		[]
		[]
		[]

60. Of those **suicide deaths**, how many were caused by **firearm wounds**?

Deaths	Year	[]
		[]
		[]
		[]
		[]

61. For the five years, how many **deaths** were caused **by an accident involving a firearm**?

Deaths	Year	[]
		[]
		[]
		[]
		[]

PART 7 - CRIME STATISTICS

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

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- criminal cases, accidents and suicides in which firearms are involved, including the number of such cases and the number of victims involved, and the status of firearms regulation by the law enforcement authorities;
- the situation with regard to transnational illicit trafficking in firearms;
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It was also recommended that information gathered by means of a special study would be used by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for its consideration of measures to regulate firearms.

In its resolution 1996/.. the ECOSOC endorsed these questionnaire and guidelines, and requested the Secretary-General to collect information and consult with Member States, as appropriate, on the basis of these questionnaire and guidelines and analyze the information obtained in order to contribute to the preparation of additional survey and country reports on firearms regulation issues.

Respondents are encouraged to coordinate the gathering of required information. On receiving survey responses, the Secretary-General will prepare a summary report and submit it to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It is planned that the Secretariat would organize four regional workshops on firearms regulation involving the participation of those officials who are knowledgeable in the fields of customs, law enforcement, criminal justice and other relevant sectors. It is also planned that on the basis of the discussions in those workshops, an ad hoc expert group meeting would be held in order to recommend further action (E/1996/30, chapter III, paras. 75-76). The results of this study will be publicly available.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following points are intended to guide the respondents. Please review these guidelines carefully.

- The survey is divided into eight parts, each reflecting a different topic area.
- Responses to the narrative portions of the survey can be provided in one of three ways:
 - a) type-written directly on the survey form;
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- It is recognized that, in some countries, responsibility for firearm regulation is distributed among many agencies and levels of government. **In responding to questions where regulatory authority is not centralized or where regulations vary among regions of your country, the responses should seek to describe the general practice and the range of variation, that exists among regions.**
- Please respond in same fashion to all questions:
 - a) if information is not available because it does not exist, please indicate NOT AVAILABLE;
 - b) if information is potentially available but cannot be obtained with reasonable effort, please indicate NOT REASONABLY AVAILABLE;
 - c) if information is not publicly available for security or other reasons please indicate NOT PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.
- Please feel free to offer other comments concerning the availability of information. For example, respondents may wish to identify questions they are unable to answer now but would be in the future. You are also welcome to provide advice as to how the questions could be better asked in the future;
- Respondents should clarify their responses with definitional and source references;
- Respondents may add in a separate sheet of paper, in each topic, any relevant additional information that is not included in the Questionnaire. Answers should be provided in a general way and include an explanation of the exceptions;
- All questions should be answered by the respondents. It could be appreciated if

answers be narrative and **not merely limited themselves to making reference to legislation or other documents**. The answers provided by the respondents should reflect the opinions of the Government.

III. SCOPE OF THE FIREARMS REGULATIONS SURVEY

This survey focuses on firearm regulation as it applies to *civilians*. Excluded from the scope are all forms of ownership, possession and use of firearms which result from the performance of State functions (State sanctioned law enforcement officials). These functions would include the military, State security, the administration of justice, policing, border protection, control of trade, and environmental protection. Also excluded from the scope of the survey are activities for which the ownership, possession or use of firearms is separately regulated by State authority, such as licensed commercial or private security services.

IV. EXPLANATION OF TERMS

For the purpose of this survey, please find the following explanation of term(s):

FIREARM: Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon.

HANDGUN: Any firearm which has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand; and any combination of parts from which a handgun can be assembled.

HOMICIDE: Death deliberately inflicted on a person by another person, including infanticide.

SEXUAL ASSAULT: Any attack or threat of attack against body of another person with the intent to commit an offence of a sexual nature.

THEFT: The removal of property without the property owner's consent.

ROBBERY: The theft of property from a person, overcoming resistance by force or threat of force.

V. Principal responding officer

Name:

Position/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone*:

Fax*:

E-mail:

*(Please include country code and city code)

62. For the most recent five years for which data are available, how many **homicide deaths** occurred in your country?

Guideline: Please quantify as a "person count." That is, the number of persons killed as a result of a criminal act.

Year	Total male victims	Total male victims under 18 years old	Total female victims	Total female victims under 18 years old	Total

63. How many of these **victims** were killed by a **firearm**?

Year	Total male victims	Total male victims under 18 years old	Total female victims	Total female victims under 18 years old	Total

A) How many of these **victims** were killed by a **handgun**?

Year	Total male victims	Total male victims under 18 years old	Total female victims	Total female victims under 18 years old	Total

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B) If available, please specify the number of homicides where the **victim** was a **law enforcement official on duty**.

Year	Number of homicides where the victims was a law enforcement official

64. How many of the total number of homicides involved a juvenile offender ?
Please provide the age of "juveniles" in your country (e.g. between 13 and 18 years old).
Age: between [] and [] years old

Guideline: Please give the number of homicide incidents where a suspect was identified.

Year	Total number of homicides which involved a juvenile offender	Total of homicides

65. For the most recent five years, how many victims of homicide were killed in your country under circumstances where there was a **domestic or family relationship** between the offender and the victim?

Guideline: Persons related by kinship or marriage and/or other persons who have an intimate relationship would be considered as having a domestic family relationship. Again, please quantify as a count of persons killed.

Year	Male victims	Female victims	Total victims	Male victims by firearm	Female victims by firearm	Total victims by firearm

66. For the most recent five years, how many **thefts/robberies** occurred in your country? How many involved the use of a **firearm**?

Guideline: Robbery involves theft or attempted theft accompanied with the threat of violence.

Year	Total	With a firearm

67. For the most recent five year period, how many persons were **wounded by firearms** in the course of a criminal act?

Guideline: We are seeking a count of all victims who suffered non-fatal wounds in the course of criminal offences.

Year	Total male victims	Total male victims under 18 years old	Total female victims	Total female victims under 18 years old	Total

68. If available, please provide the most recent statistics for reports of lost and stolen firearms.

Year	Reports of lost and stolen firearms

69. For the most recent five years, how many **sexual assaults** occurred in your country?
How many involved the use of a **firearm**?

Year	Total	With a firearm

Resource of statistics:

PART 8 - POLICY AND PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The fourth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 30 May - 9 June, 1996) recommended to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for its adoption, a resolution on information gathering and analysis of firearms regulations, in conjunction with a work plan for its implementation (doc. E/1995/30, chapter II, paras. 19-20).

In its resolution 1995/27 the ECOSOC provided the legislative mandate for the above mentioned project. The provisional work plan was endorsed in para. 9 of the same resolution. The resolution recommended that there be a regular exchange of information among Member States and that a special study be conducted on these topics:

- criminal cases, accidents and suicides in which firearms are involved, including the number of such cases and the number of victims involved, and the status of firearms regulation by the law enforcement authorities;
- the situation with regard to transnational illicit trafficking in firearms;
- national legislation and regulations relevant to firearms regulations;
- relevant initiatives for firearms regulation at the regional and interregional levels.

It was also recommended that information gathered by means of a special study would be used by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for its consideration of measures to regulate firearms.

In its resolution 1996/.. the ECOSOC endorsed these questionnaire and guidelines, and requested the Secretary-General to collect information and consult with Member States, as appropriate, on the basis of these questionnaire and guidelines and analyze the information obtained in order to contribute to the preparation of additional survey and country reports on firearms regulation issues.

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V. Principal responding officer

Name:

Position/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Telephone*:

Fax*:

E-mail:

*(Please include country code and city code)

70. Please describe any recent significant **changes of legislation or administration** in your country regarding civilian **ownership** of firearms. Provide references where appropriate.

Guideline: Please restrict your focus here to changes regarding who can or cannot own a firearm in your country, including changes to administrative procedures associated with firearm ownership. The term "recent" should be interpreted as referring to approximately the past five years.

71. Please describe any recent significant changes of **legislation or administration** in your country regarding civilian **possession or use** of firearms. Provide references where appropriate.

*Guideline: Please restrict your focus here to changes regarding the **types of firearms** that **can be used by civilians**, for what purposes and under what circumstances.*

72. Please describe any recent significant initiatives your country has taken to prevent **illegal importing, exporting, smuggling or illegal dealings in firearms**

Guideline: Such initiatives would include bilateral or regional trade agreements, joint law enforcement agreements, changes in the procedures or staffing of border patrols, or changes in penalties.

73. Please describe any recent significant initiatives law enforcement agencies in your country have taken to improve the **coordination or overall effectiveness of the enforcement of firearm regulations within your country**.

Guideline: Such initiatives would include training programs, improvements in information systems or special allocations of resources.

74. Please describe any significant initiatives sponsored by government or private agencies in your country to **promote public awareness of firearm regulations and the safe use of firearms**.

Guideline: Please refer to notable public education programs involving advertisements, pamphlets, posters, etc.

75. Please describe any **recent incidents which have served to raise public concern** and to focus the attention of government or law enforcement agencies on the issue of firearm regulation.

Guideline: Please describe any incidents that could be identified as influencing the direction of public opinion and the rationale for government or law enforcement initiatives.

76. Please describe any significant government proposals for legislative or administrative change regarding civilian ownership of firearms. Please provide references where appropriate.

CONTACT INFORMATION

We may be required to clarify some of the responses you have made to this survey. Please provide us with the following information

Principal responding officer

Name:
Position/Title:
Agency:
Address:

Telephone*:
Fax*:
E-mail:
*(Please include country code and city code)

Other Contact

Name:
Position/Title:

Address:

Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail:

Other Contact

Name:
Position/Title:

Address:

Telephone:
Fax:
E-mail: